NATIONAL FOREST STRATEGY COALITION

COALITION POUR LA STRATÉGIE NATIONALE SUR LES FORÊTS

CANADIAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our Evolving Journey Toward Sustainable Forests

1997-2000

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The Canadian forest community has reason to be proud. Through its efforts, the goal of sustainable forests, as embodied in the second *Canada Forest Accord* and the *National Forest Strategy (1998-2003), Sustainable Forests: A Canadian Commitment*, is being aggressively pursued. At the midpoint of the current Strategy, it's time to take stock of what we've done, to celebrate our achievements and understand our challenges, and then to move forward with renewed commitment. As reported by National Forest Strategy Coalition members, this accomplishments report captures a few of Canada's achievements that are moving the Strategy's commitments forward. It is evident to me that many more positive and required actions will continue to be taken, at an even faster rate, to 2003 and beyond.

Having made many speeches and presentations across this country, having visited numerous facilities, and having toured many of the diverse forests across the country, it is clear to me that there is a tremendous amount of positive activity happening in the facilities, in the forests, and in keeping with the vision of Canadians as set out in the Accord and Strategy. A report like this can only hope to capture a glimpse of that activity. It is also clear to me that, having met with several international delegations and groups in Canada and abroad, both the Accord and the Strategy are recognized as unique examples of Canadians working together toward a common goal. Canada is the first forest nation to achieve a broadly based commitment by government and non-government organizations to the goal of sustainable forests nationwide.

Reaffirming and strengthening this commitment, I am pleased to announce the following groups have joined the Coalition since the Accord was published: Association des biologistes du Québec, British Columbia Wood Specialties Group, Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists, FORCAST, Society of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists of Nova Scotia, Sustainable Forest Management Network, Tree Canada Foundation, Union of British Columbia Municipalities, and the Canadian Model Forest Network. This increases our members to 52 (see the list at the end of the report). Many other groups are considering membership.

I believe the next Strategy will continue to expand the dialogue, concepts and activities as we move toward realizing sustainable forests nationwide. Finally -- and this is very important to our continued progress and success -- the forward momentum depends on us all working together, sharing a common vision and new ideas, creating and broadening partnerships, and communicating our efforts for the mutual benefit of all.

Mike Apsey
Chair
National Forest Strategy Coalition

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PROGRESSING TOWARD THE GOAL: SPOTLIGHT ON CANADIAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Working together, the Canadian forest community has recorded a number of major achievements toward meeting the goal of sustainable forests. Activities have been underway from coast to coast, among governments, industry, business, labour, Aboriginal peoples, academia, private woodlot owners, environmental groups and other non-governmental organizations. Both the second *Canada Forest Accord* and the Strategy's nine Strategic Directions are instrumental in advancing international relations, co-ordinating science and technology, increasing community and Aboriginal involvement, developing private woodlot opportunities, and conserving, using and sharing Canada's forest heritage.

This is not an exhaustive list of highlights. The following key achievements have been selected to showcase what is underway or has been accomplished across Canada.

INDEPENDENT EXPERT EVALUATION PANEL

The Independent Expert Evaluation Panel has begun its mid-term evaluation of the current Strategy. The Panel is assessing the overall performance of a cross-section of the Strategy's commitments, and will release its report in February 2001. The evaluation is also significant because it will be used as a tool to develop a successor Strategy, to be unveiled in 2003, which will coincide with the XII[th] World Forestry Congress to be held in Québec in September 2003. Each new Strategy reaffirms Canada's effort and leadership worldwide. A final independent evaluation will also be conducted by 2003.

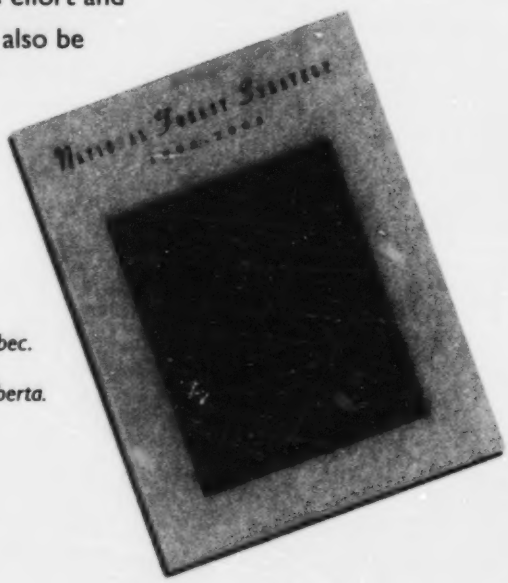
Ted Boswell *(Chair), past-president and CEO of E.B. Eddy Forest Products Ltd., and Chair of the Nature Conservancy of Canada.*

Al Davidson*, well-known naturalist, past-president of the Canadian Geographic Society, and a past evaluator of the 1992 National Forest Strategy.*

Gilles Frisque*, retired from the Conseil de la recherche forestière du Québec.*

Ross Risvold*, Chair of the Foothills Model Forest and Mayor of Hinton, Alberta.*

Tim Peck*, former Chair of the Board of the European Forest Institute.*



FOREST ECOSYSTEMS: MULTIPLE VALUES

Canada is a major forest nation—45 percent of our landmass is covered by forests. We are home to 10 percent of all the world's forests. Our forests have immense value in terms of clean air and clean water, soil conservation, habitat, wildlife, biodiversity and the storage of carbon dioxide to moderate climate change. Recognizing this, encouraging actions were taken by many Coalition members and others to improve Canada's ability to manage forests as ecosystems, as well as to understand their ecological functions and response to natural disturbance and human activity.

Over the past eight years, federal, provincial and territorial governments, Aboriginal peoples, industry and the Canadian public have added more than 24 million hectares to the networks of **parks and protected areas** across Canada. Many more protected areas, which will eventually represent all Canadian forest ecosystems, will soon be established.

Wildlife Habitat Canada has completed its five year review of the Status of Wildlife Habitats in Canada, which provides guidance, limits, and targets for **habitat conservation** in all working landscapes in Canada. It also developed the Forest Biodiversity Program to help forest companies incorporate biodiversity conservation objectives into their operations.

The Canadian Pulp and Paper Association expanded its **Biodiversity Program** and established an "Open Doors" communications program, which helps the members communicate with the public on biodiversity issues. These activities are helping forest land managers better understand biological diversity, acquire new knowledge and undertake forest practices consistent with conserving biodiversity.

A key element of Ontario's Living Legacy Strategy is the 1999 Ontario **Forest Accord** - A Foundation for Progress. It was developed through discussions with representatives from the forest industry, environmentalists and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Accord sets out a mutually acceptable approach to establishing parks and protected areas and addressing forest industry needs.

In 1999, Nova Scotia introduced an Interim Old Forest Policy. It provides guidelines for selecting and setting aside **old-growth forests** and tools that identify possible old-growth sites on provincial Crown land. These areas of old-growth forest will be excluded from forestry development.

Nova Scotia's Ecological Land Classification, adopted in 2000, is a hierarchical **classification of ecosystems**, based on similar criteria prescribed by the Canada Committee on Ecological Land Classification. The classification encompasses the largest unit, the ecozone, as well as the ecoregion, ecodistrict, ecosection and ecosite. Only the ecosite is not currently mapped. The government is using the system in its departmental land management and planning programs.

The Manitoba Ecosystems Based Management (EBM) Pilot Project was launched in July 1997 in Ecoregion 90, in eastern Manitoba. The project is designed to manage whole **ecosystems** rather than specific resources such as trees or wildlife, and focusses on planning at the landscape level. This region combines intensively used areas with remote wilderness, including two provincial parks, 16 communities (eight of which are First Nations), and forestry and mining activities. One report has been produced so far: "Ecoregion 90: The Social and Economic Landscape". Final reports on the land-use studies, the ecological description and the values elicitation tools are expected soon.

The McGregor Model Forest, British Columbia, completed **vegetation inventory** and ecosystem mapping projects of its area. The vegetation inventory detailed trees, shrubs, herbaceous layers, bryoids, soil moisture, and other ecological factors. The combination of the two techniques gives a more accurate description of the area's forest cover and provides higher quality information on habitat, ecology and relationships than previously possible. ■

FOREST MANAGEMENT: PRACTISING STEWARDSHIP

Canada's forest community continues to improve forest management by developing, integrating and adapting stewardship approaches. It does so against a backdrop of forest values that range from wilderness to wildlife, to wood supply, to recreation and to water supply.

In 1998, Wildlife Habitat Canada initiated its **Forest Stewardship Recognition Program**, developed in partnership with the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Canadian Forest Service, and with the support of numerous national and provincial forestry and conservation organizations. The Program promotes awareness and appreciation of good stewardship, sustainable forest practices and biodiversity conservation in Canada's forests. So far, 78 forest workers, woodlot owners, conservation organizations, and others working on the ground have been recognized for their outstanding efforts.

In June 1998, Wildlife Habitat Canada co-hosted the National Workshop on Backyard Stewardship with the Province of Manitoba, to facilitate co-operation and information sharing among groups across Canada who are delivering urban habitat stewardship programs. The ultimate goal is to develop a national vision for **urban stewardship** programs.

A number of provinces and organizations updated **certification** for their professional foresters and forest technicians. These include:

- In June 1997, the New Brunswick Forest Technicians Association (NBFTA), in support of sustainable forests, implemented a **Voluntary Certified Forest Technicians Program** that defines and communicates the ethic of forest stewardship, rules of conduct, and roles of all professionals. To date, 94 forest technicians have qualified under the program. Certified technicians must also agree to continuing education, be held accountable for their actions by peers and the public and maintain a high standard of excellence. In 1998, the NBFTA helped the Nova Scotia Forest Technicians develop a similar Technician Certification Program for their province.

- In August 1999, the ***Applied Science Technology Act Respecting Certified Engineering and Applied Science Technicians and Technologists of Nova Scotia*** was proclaimed. The Act formally defines and recognizes the practice of members of the Society of Certified Engineering and Technicians and Technologists of Nova Scotia. The Society's members also provide advice and liaison on a Forestry Advisory Committee to the Kings Community Economic Development Agency, whose mission is to educate urban residents and woodlot owners about sound and sustainable forest management practices.

- In 1999, Nova Scotia passed the ***Nova Scotia Foresters Association Act***. The Association aims to establish and maintain high standards of professional ethics and to assure the general public about professional foresters' knowledge, skill, proficiency and competency in their forestry practices.

- The Alberta Registered Professional Foresters Association, working with the Alberta Forest Technologists' Association, was instrumental in achieving **Royal Assent of Bill 27** (the new *Regulated Forestry Profession Act*). Crucial support came from the Alberta government, industry, and the Canadian Institute of Forestry. The new Bill enhances regulated forestry practitioners' public accountability and is a positive commitment to good forest stewardship.

- In October 2000, professional forestry became a self-regulated profession in Ontario when the *Act respecting the regulation of the practice of* ***Professional Forestry*** received Royal Assent. The Bill establishes the Ontario Professional Foresters Association as the association responsible for regulating the province's professional forestry practice. The Bill increases the accountability of the province's professional foresters and requires that anyone practising professional forestry meet rigid academic and professional standards. This legislation is the culmination of a four-year effort by the association to achieve self-regulating status.

- The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador met the commitment to address the professional practice of forestry and the registration and accountability of professional foresters. In 1998, the Registered Professional Foresters of Newfoundland and Labrador with the Canadian Institute of Forestry jointly established a **program for registered professional foresters** (RPF) that sets the standards and regulations in the province. So far, there are 50 RPFs in Newfoundland.

- The Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board, formed in 1989 by Canadian professional foresters and forest engineers associations and the Canadian Institute of Forestry, completed its second round of **baccalaureate forestry program** evaluations during 2000. Nine of the forestry degree programs of the member schools in the Association of University Forestry Schools of Canada now enjoy six-year accreditation, the maximum permissible under the national accreditation process.

In 1998, the Northwest Territories developed a pilot project with a tree nursery to produce 50,000 white spruce seedlings, grown from seed collected in the Slave River Valley, for the **area's reforestation**. If successful, the program will be expanded so that this northern nursery program will eventually supply enough seedlings to fulfil the NWT's ongoing forest tree seedlings requirements.

In August 2000, the Alberta government established the independent Alberta Reforestation Standards Science Council composed of individuals knowledgeable in forest management and silviculture. The Council will recommend a process for developing future policies, as well as provide qualitative and practical advice to the Environment Minister that may be applied to improving the province's current **reforestation policies**. A report containing the Council's findings and recommendations will be delivered in December 2000.

The Forest Alliance of British Columbia continued to promote forest stewardship across the province. In September 1999, the Nature Conservancy of Canada recognized the Alliance for its funding of a **sanctuary** for 3,500 eagles in the Squamish Valley, north of Vancouver.

Tree Canada Foundation has made a number of contributions to **forest stewardship**:

- Since 1997, the Foundation and its partners have planted more than 8.8 million trees, and are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of these trees.

- In 1998, it established **Operation Re-leaf**, which helped co-ordinate and allocate funding for various eastern Canadian communities that were affected by unprecedented ice storm damage. More than 107,000 trees were distributed to replace lost or damaged trees.

- It also established **Green Streets Canada**, which allows municipalities to apply for funding to improve their urban forests. This program offers citizens a deeper appreciation of how trees can contribute to a healthier urban environment. Endorsed by the Canadian Federation of Municipalities, well over $4 million in matching contributions have been distributed to more than 260 communities, resulting in over 700,000 trees planted and maintained.

The **Prince Albert Model Forest**, Saskatchewan, has collaborated with community groups, industry, First Nations, and federal and provincial resource management partners to return elk to northern Saskatchewan. In 1999, 276 elk were released into the Wapus Lake area. The partners expect to relocate between 600 and 1,200 elk over a five-year period.

In 1999, the Foothills Model Forest, Alberta, with its government, industry and academic partners, initiated a Grizzly Bear Research Project to develop land management practices that will help conserve **grizzly bears** in the boreal, montane and subalpine forests of western Alberta. This complex project covers 5,300 square kilometres that includes a national park, mines and an industrial forest management area. A number of bears are being tracked, including 19 equipped with radio collars, in order to collect information on travel patterns, locations, population status and trends, and mortality rates.

In October 1999, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, through the recommendations of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest's Pine Marten Conflict Resolution Working Group, established the Grand Lake Reserve to protect three ecoregions and habitat for the endangered Newfoundland **pine marten**. Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited supplied the primary land base on which the reserve was established. As well, the Crown and Abitibi Consolidated contributed land. Another important development, for areas where trapping occurs, was the creation of a modified snare that traps hares, but does not harm martens.

The Canadian Forestry Association has expanded its Logging for Wildlife program by developing region-specific manuals and **training** workshops in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, and the Yukon. Through the sponsorship of Environment Canada and CFA's provincial and industrial partners, more than 2,500 forest workers have received this on-the-ground habitat sensitivity training.

The Northwest Territory's Silviculture Working Group reviewed the government's Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Ground Rules and produced new draft ground rules in 1999. The rules guide forest industry companies planning more **sustainable harvest operations**.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has published several **guidelines** that provide direction for protecting and conserving forest values,

including wildlife habitat, during planning and implementing forest management activities. Between 1997 and 2000, the following new guidelines were produced:

- Forest Management Guidelines for the Provision of White-tailed Deer Habitat
- Forest Management Guidelines for the Protection of the Physical Environment
- Silvicultural Guide to Managing Black Spruce, Jack Pine and Aspen on Boreal Forest Ecosites in Ontario
- Selected Wildlife and Habitat Features: Inventory Manual
- A Silvicultural Guide for the Great-Lakes-St. Lawrence Conifer Forest in Ontario
- A Silvicultural Guide for the Tolerant Hardwood Forest in Ontario

The Canadian Pulp and Paper Association (CPPA) and its members support third-party verification of their sustainable forest management practices. They report annually on their progress toward this goal. The CPPA has played a leading role in the industry-wide **Sustainable Forestry Certification Coalition**, a group responsible for having the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) undertake development of the CSA Sustainable Forest Management Z808/809 standards. All CPPA member companies will have their woodlands operations certified to one or more sustainable forest management standards by the end of 2003.

In December 2000, more than 37.9 million hectares (about 18 percent) of Canada's managed forests were **certified** under one or several of the following systems:

Canadian Standards Association (CSA)	4,215,000 ha
Forest Stewardship Council	30,000 ha
International Organization for Standardization (ISO)	37,915,000 ha
Sustainable Forestry Initiative	1,040,000 ha

(Note: some areas are certified under several systems.)

According to an industry survey, 92.2 million hectares could be certified by the end of 2003, primarily under the ISO and CSA systems.

In September 1999, the Ordre des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec released a consultation version of the **Guide of Professional Practice**. The Guide, based on ISO-9000 principles, will support Québec forest engineers in their professional activities such as decision making, problem solving, etc. The final document should be officially adopted in early 2001. The organization in September 2000 also produced a wide-ranging, bilingual Dictionary of Forestry that defines about 5,250 forestry-related terms.

By the end of 1999, 20 million hectares of Alberta's forests, more than 90 percent of the province's productive land base, were being managed under **FORESTCARE** program principles. FORESTCARE, an industry stewardship program developed by Alberta Forest Products Association members and stakeholders across the province, has two key goals: to progressively improve industry performance in the forest, the environment and the community; and to foster a cooperative relationship between industry and community stakeholders.

In 2000, the Forestry Chronicle celebrated 75 years as Canada's premier national **forestry journal**. Published by the Canadian Institute of Forestry, many of its scientific and professional articles focus on sustainable forests.

Prince Edward Island is updating its forest inventories by collecting information on forest growth, use, and development. The province is also establishing a "value zone" concept that assigns the highest priority value or **values** for each forest stand in the provincial forest system. These values must be reflected in all forest management or harvest treatments to demonstrate to private land owners, industry and the public the government's commitment to sustainable forestry.

Québec is reviewing its ***Forest Act*** and regulations. As well, the province is sponsoring a program to raise awareness on sustainable forest development for its forest community. The provincial departments responsible for natural resources, environment and wildlife made a clear commitment, in December 1998, to promote integrated forest resource management.

British Columbia initiated strategic land-use **planning** in 1992 using an innovative consensus-seeking process that involves local residents and stakeholders and encourages First Nations' participation. So far, four regional plans and 11 subregional land and resource management plans have been completed that cover over half of the province. Six more are underway.

Newfoundland and Labrador, under specific legislation, continues to deal with local forest-related issues through forest district planning teams of local citizens, non-government organizations and government department representatives. This is part of the process to renew **operating plans** and ensure sustainable forest practices. These stakeholder meetings have proven to be very successful. So far, 14 forest districts have gone through this ongoing process.

Nova Scotia passed a new *Endangered Species Act* in 1998 to protect, designate, recover and conserve **species at risk** in Nova Scotia, including habitat protection. In 2000, the Expert Panel released its first species status report.

After extensive consultations, in 1999 Nova Scotia amended its Forest Act and implemented new regulations in 2000. Wood buyers in Nova Scotia are now responsible for ensuring sufficient **silviculture programming** to support the government's acquisition of wood supplies from private lands in the province. The Act will also extend requirements for wildlife habitat protection measures during forestry operations, previously limited to Crown lands, to private lands.

During summer 1997, Natural Resources Canada and the Northwest Territories completed the first phase of the International Crown Fire Modelling Experiment in Canada's Northwest Territories. Since then, new experiments have been conducted each summer. The experiments have added to the knowledge and data necessary to predict the physical behaviour and effects of high-intensity **crown fires**.

Québec is overseeing an experimental program to monitor sustainable forest development using **criteria and indicators** designed for the province. It is also developing an evaluation framework for sustainable forest development in accordance with the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers' criteria for sustainable forest development. The critical elements include such issues as ecosystem diversity, carbon dioxide conservation, industry competition, public consultation and a number of others. ■

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: MANY VOICES

In many parts of Canada, public participation is an integral part of forest and land management. The voices are many. For example, more than 340 communities across Canada depend on forests for their well-being. Over 75 percent of all Aboriginal communities are located in commercially productive forest regions. As well, there are voices representing tourism, recreation, hunting, fishing and a whole range of aesthetic, cultural and social values. As shown in the examples below, Coalition members have been expanding the dialogue on sustainable forests.

In 1998, Tree Canada Foundation established the Greening Canada's School Grounds program. In just two years, the Foundation has worked in more than 75 schools nationally to restore or create **ecological education** as well as greener areas on school grounds.

The Canadian Forest Service (CFS) celebrated its **centennial** in 1999. Several activities focussed on the CFS's contribution to sustainable forest management in Canada. For example, a science and technology exhibit on Parliament Hill was attended by more than one hundred Members of Parliament, Senators and parliamentary staff. Also, a booklet, "The Canadian Forest Service: A Future as Dynamic as its Past", was published. It provides a brief history of the CFS, highlights some milestones in forest management, and looks at the challenges facing the Canadian forest sector.

In Ontario, public **participation** in forest management and land-use planning is routine and ongoing. It is the law in Ontario that public participation is an integral part of forest and land management. Over 65,000 Ontarians participated in the Lands for Life process during a two-year period that culminated in Ontario's Living Legacy Strategy. In addition, Ontario's Private Land Stewardship Program and local stewardship councils contribute to private land forestry in the province.

Nova Scotia has established a new Forest Technical Advisory Committee of mixed stakeholders to **advise** on the *Forest Act*. A Forest Sector Committee under the Nova Scotia Voluntary Planning Organization has been re-established. Numerous provincial and federal resource agencies and community authorities actively participate in a provincial Sustainable Communities Initiative.

The University of Moncton, New Brunswick, established a **co-operative** program (combining studies at school and training in the workplace) in forestry. It also reorganized its first cycle forestry program to incorporate a number of courses on sustainable development. The university also sponsored a program of summer camps for Francophone secondary students that dealt with several forestry topics.

The KEY Foundation (Knowledge on the Environment for Youth) is committed to providing **students and teachers** with the most current information and resources about the environment. It holds summer conferences on forestry where about 30 elementary and secondary science teachers

from across Canada can talk to a variety of forest stakeholders about the resource and how it is managed. The teachers also commit themselves to tell others about what they learned. They now have a network of several hundred teachers.

The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers met its commitment to release its report, Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in Canada: National Status 2000. The report demonstrates how Canada has moved forward in **tracking forest sustainability** using criteria and indicators.

In 2000, the Canadian Model Forest Network produced A Users' Guide to Local Level Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management: Experiences from the Canadian Model Forest Network. The document covers information on the processes, protocols and methodologies developed for identifying, monitoring, reporting and applying **local-level indicators**.

The Canadian Forestry Association (CFA) completed its first **century of service** to Canadians in 2000. It co-hosted the national millennium forestry conference with Lakehead University in May 2000 in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Every year the CFA sponsors National Forest Week and the Forest Capital of Canada campaigns that celebrate historic and ongoing forest values. Nearly 40,000 teaching kits are distributed to Canadian schools during National Forest Week through long-standing partnerships with provincial forestry associations and others. The CFA also oversees Smokey Bear safety programs and the Envirothon science competition in Canada.

The Forest Ecosystem Research Network of Sites (FERNS) was established in all Canadian ecozones, in collaboration with the provinces, forest industry and universities. This **network** promotes, nationally and internationally, the multi-disciplinary study of innovative sustainable forest management practices and ecosystem processes at the stand level. Some samples of studies are: Salal Cedar Hemlock Integrated Research Program on Vancouver Island; Hochkiss River Mixedwood Timber Harvesting study in northwestern Alberta; and Fallingsnow Ecosystem Project in north-central Ontario.

In fall 1999, the Forest Alliance of British Columbia sponsored two half-hour televised **videos** on forest certification and the province's growing value-added industry that more than 150,000 people watched.

In November 2000, the Association des biologistes du Québec held its 25th **annual congress**, which focussed on biodiversity at the beginning of the third millennium.

Québec held **public hearings** as part of reviewing its Forest Act. In 1999, the province produced an awareness-raising brochure and a set of information sheets on the six criteria for sustainable development. It also suggested indicators that measure how they were applied in various forest management activities. ■

THE FOREST INDUSTRY: A GLOBAL COMPETITOR

Forestry adds nearly $20 billion per year to Canada's gross domestic product, more than 800,000 jobs, and almost $40 billion in exports. A healthy forest industry contributes significantly to our ability to fund conservation activities and maintain high standards of environmental quality.
The Canadian forest industry has taken up the challenge to practise sustainable forest management, develop new technology and promote more trade.

Forintek Canada Corporation, Canada's wood products research institute, transfers technology and provides technical services to companies engaged in secondary/value-wood processing. It develops new **products and processing** methods that accommodate, accept or use the changing properties of fibre in the forests, including the use of under-utilized and second growth species. For example, Forintek developed technologies that transform hog fuel waste into a panel product that is strong and resists termites. It also developed the ATHENA™ model that assesses environmental impact data for wood, steel and concrete building materials.

The Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada in collaboration with the Mechanical Wood-Pulps Network of Centres of Excellence has solved the problem of light-induced yellowing in **pulp** that is commonly made by mechanically refining sawmill residual wood chips. It is a highly efficient use of wood waste. By solving the yellowing problem, the higher yield pulp can be used more widely in high-value printing and writing grades of paper. Because Canada's northern softwoods make the best mechanical pulp in the world, this discovery is particularly appropriate for developing Canadian-made products.

Canadian Pulp and Paper Association member companies are making significant **environmental improvements** to their mills, all of which are contributing to competitiveness. Recycled fibre now constitutes, on average, close to 25 percent of the content of paper products. Water quality in mill effluent is improving. Energy use per unit of production is dropping. As well, fossil fuels are being replaced with increased use of biomass.

Nationally, the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association has established a Public Advisory Committee to advise the Association on its **environmental reporting** needs. The CPPA is an example of industry's increasingly active efforts to seek local public input when developing and reviewing forest management plans.

Lake Abitibi Model Forest, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and other partners produced A Practical Field Guide for Equipment Operators and Resource Managers to Soil Disturbance in Clay and Organic Soils in Northeastern Ontario. This easy-to-use guide helps identify soil **sensitive sites and operating conditions**, and emphasizes on-the-ground forestry and resource use planning and methods.

The University of British Columbia program on **value-added** manufacturing has held or co-sponsored a series of national conferences across Canada on technological and marketing opportunities for value-added wood products.

The Government of Québec has established a non-profit agency, Innovation-papier, to financially assist a number of pulp and paper plants facing an uncertain future. Two other industrial expansion projects have been established to double the production of two Québec plants producing particle board and to **support growth** in the furniture industry.

In 2000, as in previous years, the Forest Alliance of British Columbia visited key buyers of **Canadian forest products** in the United States and Europe to brief them on Canadian, and particularly British Columbian, sustainable forest management practices. The Alliance sent delegations to meet with home improvement retailers, home builders and Fortune 500 businesses. These visits help maintain and increase access for Canadian forest products in international markets.

Trade Team Canada's Sector Team coordinated the promotion of **Canadian wood and building products**, as well as building codes and standards, to influence the European Union, United States and Asia to accept Canada's products. For example, the Minister of Natural Resources, with some 20 forest sector representatives, led a trade and investment mission to China and Korea that promoted Canadian resource products and fostered the acceptance of Canadian codes and standards.

In 1997, Industry Canada sponsored Canada-wide regional workshops which resulted in 32 recommendations to promote tourism, ecological and cultural tours, and outdoor **forest-based recreation**. The implementation of these recommendations is underway. So far, an information booklet has been published and an Adventure Travel Workshop has been organized.

The International Forestry Partnership Program (IFPP) of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers was renewed to 2005. Since 1997, the IFPP has hosted 12 forestry **fact-finding missions** to Canada during which nearly 120 key international decision-makers were briefed about Canadian sustainable forest management policies and practices, and were taken to forest sites and forest operations across Canada.

Prince Edward Island has developed and released an 11-point Forest Action Plan that includes increases in reforestation efforts, and conducting a forest inventory to update information on forest growth, development, area, and use. The Plan replaces the Forest Partnership Council with an appointed Forest Improvement Advisory Council that will advise the government on forest policy, programming and private land tax policy.

The British Columbia Ministry of Forests established a Small Business Program Sustainable Forest Management Certification program to develop a province-wide **environmental management system** and to test the application of different certification systems.

The Prince Albert Model Forest developed an integrated forest land-use plan that will provide a framework for resource management decision-making for the government and all resource users. Subsequently, the Government of Saskatchewan has adopted it. Before a forest management agreement is signed, forestry companies must prepare annual operating plans before any harvesting can occur and prepare **forest management plans** covering 20 years. ■

FOREST SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT: A TEAM APPROACH

Canada's science and technology (S&T) capabilities are crucial to our capacity to manage our forest heritage in a truly sustainable manner. First-class S&T helps Canadians keep our forests healthy and strong, our industry viable, and helps preserve our vital access to markets around the world and opens new markets. Coalition members are working to share information, visions and priorities, improve forest research and maintain Canada's world leadership in this area.

A national forest science and technology forum was held in Toronto in June 1997, sponsored by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers. A National Forest Science and Technology **Course of Action** was developed in January 1999.

The National Advisory Board for Forest Research (NABFOR), a group that assesses the overall forest **research needs and opportunities** in Canada, the effectiveness of the Canadian Forest Service's leadership and networking, and advises the Minister of Natural Resources Canada, was established in 1998. Industry, private woodlots, academia, Aboriginal, community and environmental groups are all represented on NABFOR.

FORCAST, the coalition for **advancing science and technology** (S&T) in the forest sector, was launched in September 1998. FORCAST includes 31 members representing federal and provincial governments, industry, academia, Aboriginal and conservation groups. A few examples of the Coalition's activities include:

- commissioning the University of British Columbia to study the Status of Forestry Related Research in Canada 1999-2000;
- establishing a Strategic Knowledge System subcommittee to consider a business plan to create an easily accessible national information system on S&T;
- working closely with Statistics Canada to obtain and publish an accurate picture of S&T performance in the forest sector;
- organizing, with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and Statistics Canada, a series of workshops to raise awareness of the Scientific Research and Experimental Development Tax Incentive Program; and,
- holding a National Forest Sector Science and Technology Forum in Edmonton, October 2000, which built on the success of the 1997 forum that was the foundation for FORCAST.

In 1998 and 1999, the Sustainable Forest Management Network hosted research-based conferences that encouraged forest community networking and informed **science-based policies** toward adaptive forest management.

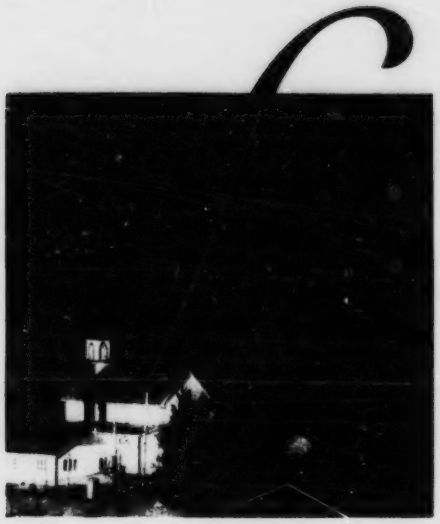
The Sustainable Forest Management Network and the National Aboriginal Forestry Association collaborated on workshops that have determined First Nations' research priorities and needs. The information will be used to build an on-the-ground, knowledge-based capacity for sustainable forest management. For example, one workshop brought together students and First Nations' elders to discuss protocols for researching **traditional knowledge**.

The McGregor Model Forest, British Columbia, has developed advanced modelling, forecasting and visualization tools that forecast how different forest values might respond under a variety of management scenarios within a defined area and time. The **forest models** that result help portray and assess potential outcomes based on the best sustainable forest management practices.

The British Columbia Council of Forest Industries (COFI) has designed a Blueprint for Competitiveness, outlining five fundamental ideas for improving British Columbia's public **forest policy**. COFI is working with member companies to reduce wood waste, produce soil enhancers from the pulping process, increase energy efficiency and promote energy co-generation. It is also promoting wood construction in China and other Asian markets and working to ensure there are increasing opportunities for wood products under European building codes and standards.

In November 1999, the Association des biologistes du Québec and its partners held the second Forum-Forêt-Faune. More than 480 biologists, researchers and foresters participated in the **forum**. The event was awarded several scientific and forest management distinctions.

Forintek Canada Corporation collaborated on **research** with other organizations in Canada and around the world and worked closely with many Canadian universities in carrying out joint research projects. ■



COMMUNITIES AND THE WORKFORCE: LIVING WITH CHANGE

Governments and organizations took various actions to help meet the changing needs of today's forest workforce. These needs are influenced by the complexity of the forest environment, rapid developments in technology, pressures of increasing competition, and need to attract and train young people for forest-related jobs.

In British Columbia, the Long Term Forest Policy Review was established to look at **innovative forest policy** that will allow the province to attract new investment in its forests. The Review will also look at promoting strong community participation, greater emphasis on high-value, made-in-B.C. products, and world-leading environmental standards.

A sustainable forest management **training program** for front-line forest workers was developed through the Western Newfoundland Model Forest partnership. The program, unique in North America, has been delivered to all forest workers employed by pulp and paper companies in the province. It gives the forest worker a solid foundation in environmental awareness and environmentally sensitive harvesting practices. Training for workers harvesting on Crown land will begin in winter 2001. So far, over 1,000 woodworkers have completed the program, which has both classroom and field components.

Model Forests have been developing curriculum materials for a variety of age groups. For example, the Lake Abitibi Model Forest's "Mysteries of the Boreal" program is an **educational tool** designed to interest students in the stewardship of forest resources while also giving them a broad understanding of the issues involved in forest management. Many other model forests have also worked with local school boards and other educators to develop a wide range of educational materials on sustainable forest management.

As a result of Forintek Canada Corporation's work on process improvement and product certification for a company in Quebec, the company invested in a new, engineered wood products plant that created 50 new **jobs** in the community. As well, Forintek helped a small value-added company in the British Columbia Interior reduce the reject rate for its products from 20% to 5% and prevented the company from going bankrupt. Working with a door manufacturer in British Columbia, Forintek created innovative designs that helped correct a product problem. As a result, the company was able to retain and expand its export market and to hire 15 new employees.

The National Human Resources Seminar for furniture and manufacturing wood products industries was held in March 1998, sponsored by Human Resources Development Canada. It was the beginning of a process to identify priorities and to develop an **action plan** for a National Human Resources Strategy.

Since 1997, the Government of Québec has directed $77 million to forest **job creation** projects. In recent months, it has also taken steps to develop the workforce to fill forest management jobs, in collaboration with other key partners, in order to structure and consolidate this sector.

The Association des biologistes du Québec has developed, in partnership with Laval University, an undergraduate university certificate for Integrated Resource Management. This **continuing education** program is currently offered to biologists, forest engineers and technicians to upgrade their knowledge on new concepts in ecosystem management techniques and public involvement issues. So far, about 200 students have attended one of the four courses offered in Québec and Jonquière.

The nationally recognized **Continuing Forestry Education Program** is delivered in New Brunswick through a partnership between the Canadian Institute of Forestry's (CIF) Maritime Section, the New Brunswick Forest Technicians Association (NBFTA) and the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick (ARPFNB). The program was originally developed by CIF in 1994. ARPFNB, CIF Maritime, New Brunswick Forest Products Association and NBFTA collaborate to present Sylvicon, New Brunswick's premier forestry conference, which focuses on professional development. More than 120 academics and forest practitioners participate in the conference.

In 1999, the Forest Alliance of British Columbia sponsored a **conference** entitled "Forests and Communities: Finding Ways Forward". The conference brought together communities from the North Island and Central Coast of British Columbia to discuss how to collectively develop and co-ordinate regional economic diversification plans. The conference helped identify a number of innovative ideas in the areas of tourism, marketing, tenure reform, transportation and fibre access that could help communities strengthen their economic outlook. ■

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES: ISSUES OF RELATIONSHIP

Aboriginal peoples are participating more in forest sector activities in general. With greater recognition of Aboriginal and treaty rights, opportunities now exist for socio-economic growth of Aboriginal communities, which are mainly located within productive forested areas. Developing the capacity to improve forest resource opportunities is still a challenge; however, Aboriginal communities are gaining a greater voice in forest management. Recognizing Aboriginal interests and including Aboriginal communities as long-term partners, along with government and industry, will continue to improve Canada's effort toward sustainable forests.

Many of the key issues underlying **Aboriginal participation** in sustainable forest management are addressed through initiatives of the National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA). For example, NAFA:

- Completed, in fall 1998, for the Canadian Forest Service, five case studies on applying traditional Aboriginal knowledge to forest management in Canada, including its use in Model Forests.
- Completed, in 2000, "Aboriginal-Forest Sector Partnerships: Lessons for Future Collaboration" with the Institute of Governance. The report outlines Aboriginal partnerships in the forest sector and identifies numerous successful case studies.
- Produced the "Aboriginal Professional Development in the Forest Sector" report and action plan.
- Is developing an Aboriginal Forest Research Agenda to ensure that Aboriginal communities, organizations and associated issues are included in Canadian forest research.
- Sponsored, with industry partners, a "forest ranger"camp to give First Nations' youth exposure to contemporary forest management activities. In summer 2000, 18 First Nation youth successfully completed the program. This program has great potential to be implemented across the country through industry, government and First Nations' partnerships.
- The Long Beach Model Forest's community GIS program was designed to enhance local community access to information and technology for better and more informed decision-making. More than 130 individuals, including many Aboriginal youth, have completed internships through four Long Beach Model Forest initiatives: research internship, youth internship, GIS internship and users network, and Rainforest Interpretive Centre internship.

The Manitoba Model Forest has brought youth and elders together to document **traditional land use** of the Brokenhead Ojibway, Little Black River and Hollow Water First Nations. Information, collected through extensive interviews by the youth with the

elders, has been used to produce an interactive, multimedia CD-ROM to be distributed to local schools and community organizations.

Saskatchewan announced four new integrated forest **land use plans**, which all have Aboriginal and industrial partners. The plans signal a major change in the scale of industrial forest activities in northern Saskatchewan. They will support sustainable land use and resource management planning for large parts of that area. As part of this process, Northerners are actively participating in decision-making about managing northern resources.

The First Nation Forestry Initiative at the University of British Columbia continues to increase the participation and success of First Nations students in its **forestry programs**, and also to incorporate relevant First Nations content in its forestry curriculum. The program has expanded from three undergraduate First Nations students enrolled in 1994 to 20 in 2000. A compulsory First Nations course called "Perspective on First Nations and Forest Lands", which addresses Aboriginal title and treaty rights and how they interface with forest activities in British Columbia, was added to the Bachelor of Science Forestry Program.

First Nation communities and Canadian industry have been working together to increase economic opportunity through **partnerships**. For example, since 1997, two new sawmills were established in Québec, both owned and managed by Aboriginal corporations in partnership with industry, and support about 150 direct and 200 indirect jobs. In April 2000, an Aboriginal-owned and operated tree nursery was established in Ontario. The nursery supports about 40 jobs within the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway First Nation and has sales contracts with industry.

Through **agreements** with the Québec government, eight First Nation communities have gained access to forest resources (about 800,000 cubic metres of timber) to help establish wood processing plants in their respective regions. In 1998, Québec signed an agreement to increase the involvement of the Barrier Lake Algonquins in forest management. Other similar agreements in Québec have been signed with First Nation communities, including the Gesgapegiag Micmacs.

In 1998, the New Brunswick Forest Technicians Association, the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick, and Fraser Papers Incorporated, collaborated with First Nation communities to enhance sustainable forest management **practices**. For example, cultural awareness presentations were sponsored at four New Brunswick centres.

In September 2000, Alberta released **Strengthening Relationships**, a document that outlines the Government of Alberta's Aboriginal Policy Framework. The Framework describes Alberta's vision for improved Aboriginal socio-economic conditions, greater certainty for resource development, and clearer roles and responsibilities between federal, provincial and Aboriginal governments. The province is also evaluating mechanisms used in natural resources public consultations that include discussions held with First Nations to see if the consultations are effective in bringing all interested communities to the table.

In 1997, the Model Forest Network added an **eleventh Model Forest**, the Aboriginal-led Waswanipi Cree Model Forest in northern Québec. The Model Forest provides Aboriginal peoples with the opportunity to further develop approaches to sustainable forest management based on their values, beliefs and traditions.

In October 1998, the Hay River Dene Reserve was the site of the Northwest Territory's first **conference on forestry** in the North. Entitled "Northern Forests, Northern Challenges: establishing a co-operative approach to forest development". The conference was held in response to the increasing interest of northern communities in managing the boreal forest.

Harvesting agreements have been concluded with all 15 of New Brunswick's First Nations for 1999-2000. Several of the most recent agreements are in place for three years. They will strengthen cooperative arrangements for training and sustainable management.

Natural Resources Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's **First Nations Forestry Program** created various communication mechanisms, including a Web site, videos, newsletters and reports. Since 1997, the First Nations Forestry Program has sponsored more than 1,000 projects that provided over 40,000 person weeks of employment. The program aims to enhance First Nations capacity for sustainable forest management on reserve lands. ■

PRIVATE WOODLOTS: A GROWING OPPORTUNITY

Private woodlot owners, their organizations and governments have strengthened co-operative efforts to make private forestry sustainable. Private woodlots cover 12 percent of Canada's forest lands.

A suite of initiatives has been established to support **sustainable management** on New Brunswick's private woodlots, including a major silviculture program, improved woodlot inventory data and resources committed to management education.

Revenue Canada published a new private woodlot **income tax bulletin**. It is a significant step forward in an ongoing process that will allow more incentives for woodlot owners to practise stewardship.

Prince Edward Island has released an enhanced Private Woodlot Owners Education Program that focusses on the wide range of social, economic and environmental **values** of the forest.

The Bas-Saint-Laurent Model Forest, in partnership with La Fondation de la Faune du Québec, Wildlife Habitat Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the North America Waterfowl Management Plan, developed a successful voluntary wetland **conservation program** for private lands. To date, 38 woodlot owners within the Model Forest are participating in the project and are helping protect 25 wetlands. The project educates woodlot owners on the importance of protecting wetlands, and seeks their voluntary cooperation in wetland conservation.

The Fundy Model Forest developed a Forestry Best Management Practices and Water Quality video to help woodlot owners and contractors manage for water quality, and to encourage **conservation practices**. It addresses issues such as the importance of proper planning, road and trail construction, tree harvesting and silviculture, fuel and chemical use and storage. The video has been widely distributed and is used as a training tool by a number of forest companies across Canada.

The Eastern Ontario Model Forest has produced a Code of Forestry Practice booklet for woodlot owners to help them understand and apply the principles of **sustainable forest management** to their forested lands. The Model Forest has also produced A True Picture – Taking Inventory of Your Woodlot to further help private landowners develop management plans.

A **Best Management Practices Manual** has been developed by the Nova Forest Alliance, Nova Scotia's Model Forest project, and the Nova Scotia Forest Technicians Association to help contractors design and implement forest management operations on private woodlots in Nova Scotia. The manual focuses on four best practices: dealing with the landowner, harvesting operations, road construction and wildlife habitat. A Code of Practice is also included to further support sustainable forest management. ■

THE GLOBAL VIEW: CANADA ON STAGE

Sustainable forest management contributes not only to the health of Canada's environment, but also to the health of the world's environment. Canada took major steps to build global consensus on further actions to improve sustainable forest management around the world.

Canada was a major participant on the United Nations' **Intergovernmental Forum on Forests** (IFF), which presented its final report to the Commission on Sustainable Development in April 2000. Canada's objectives for the final session of IFF were twofold. First, in 1998, a partnership between Canada and Costa Rica was formed to support the IFF in determining the elements of a legally binding international forest convention as a means to promote global sustainable forest management. Second, Canada wished to resolve the debates from previous IFF sessions on key issues, including trade, technology transfer and financial resources, in a manner that supported the need for a forest convention. Progress was made towards meeting these objectives.

In February 2000, the Forest Alliance of British Columbia used its special consultative status with the United Nations to make an intervention supporting a **global convention** on managing the world's forests. In co-operation with the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association and the Industrial, Wood and Allied Workers of Canada, the Alliance advocated a legally binding instrument to create a common understanding of and commitment to sustainable forest management.

Tree Canada Foundation has developed a unique climate change program to encourage corporations to identify **tree planting** as a way to help offset carbon emissions as part of their commitment to the federal government's Voluntary Climate Change Challenge and Registry.

Canada continues to share its first-class **fire fighting expertise**, personnel and equipment. For example, throughout summer 2000, Canada helped to fight substantial forest fires in the United States.

The exchanges between Canadian model forests and those in the International Model Forest Network continued. The exchanges included technology transfer, greater understanding of different forest regimes, and an enhanced understanding of seeing how the health of the world's forests affect everyone. The Manitoba Model Forest, for example, has been collaborating with the **Monarch Butterfly** Model Forest in Zitacuaro, Mexico, on a number of projects. School children from Winnipeg and Zitacuaro have linked up on the Internet to share their knowledge of the monarch butterfly, which winters in Mexico and summers in Canada. The two model forests are now working together to research ways to improve eco-tourism opportunities in the Mexican community.

A three-year federal action plan to implement commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity was published in 1997 and 1998. The plan is now being implemented. The **biological diversity work program** will be reported on at the next conference, to be held before the end of 2000. ■

CONTACTS

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6. Association des manufacturiers de bois de sciage du Québec
7. Association of British Columbia Professional Foresters
8. Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick
9. Association of University Forestry Schools of Canada
10. British Columbia Ministry of Forests
11. British Columbia Wood Specialties Group
12. Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists
13. Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners
14. Canadian Forestry Association
15. Canadian Institute of Forestry
16. Canadian Model Forest Network
17. Canadian Pulp and Paper Association
18. Canadian Silviculture Association
19. Canadian Wildlife Federation
20. Council of Forest Industries
21. Ducks Unlimited Canada
22. FORCAST
23. Forest Alliance of British Columbia
24. Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada (FERIC)
25. Forintek Canada Corporation
26. IWA-Canada
27. Manitoba Conservation
28. Maritime Lumber Bureau
29. National Aboriginal Forestry Association
30. Natural Resources Canada
31. National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
32. New Brunswick Forest Technicians Association
33. New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy
34. Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods
35. Northwest Territories Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
36. Nova Scotia Forest Technicians Association
37. Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
38. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
39. Ontario Professional Foresters Association
40. Ordre des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec
41. Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture and Forestry
42. Prince Edward Island Nature Trust
43. Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada (PAPRICAN)
44. Québec - Department of Natural Resources (non-signatory participant)
45. Registered Professional Foresters of Newfoundland and Labrador
46. Saskatchewan Department of Environment and Resources Management
47. Society of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists of Nova Scotia
48. Sustainable Forest Management Network
49. Tree Canada Foundation
50. Union of British Columbia Municipalities
51. Wildlife Habitat Canada
52. Yukon Territory Department of Renewable Resources
53. Mr. Mike Apsey, Chair

BROADENING ISSUES AND PARTNERSHIPS: THE EVOLUTION OF A NATIONAL FOREST STRATEGY

Canada's history and development have been intertwined with its forests. Because our forests have dominated many aspects of Canadian life, their well-being has been a concern for Canadians, especially over the last century. Out of this concern has developed a number of national forest strategies. They have evolved from a harvest-regeneration discussion paper in 1981 *(Forest Sector Strategy for Canada: Discussion Paper,1981-1987)* that focussed on the long-term need to increase timber supply and forest renewal in Canada. In 1987, the issues expanded to address the multiple use of forests, and were reported in *National Forest Sector Strategy for Canada (1987-1992).* To further stimulate new policies and initiatives, Canadians defined their goal and vision through rigorous cross-country consultations. The consultations identified a set of all-encompassing sustainable forest principles and commitments that led to developing the *National Forest Strategy (1992-1997), Sustainable Forests: A Canadian Commitment* and *National Forest Strategy (1998-2003), Sustainable Forests: A Canadian Commitment.*

Each forest strategy has led to a more concise definition of sustainable forests, expanded the national direction and fostered a wider array of networking. As the strategies evolved, more forest community representatives were engaged, who adopted an increasing number of measurable commitments to act upon.

Since Canada's Eighth National Forest Congress (May 1998), where the second *Canada Forest Accord* was signed and the current National Forest Strategy unveiled, many dialogues and partnerships have continued to expand in an open, positive and productive way. Canada's forest community continues to be actively involved in defining and developing the concept of sustainable forests, reconfirming values and identifying strategic directions, objectives, and actions required to further advance the Strategy's goal. This includes the third-party evaluations of the 1992 Strategy, a rigorous set of cross-country regional forums and a national workshop, the Eighth National Forest Congress, and volunteering feedback throughout the process. The ongoing nature of the Strategy provides a means to address current social, economic and environmental issues in an integrated approach.

The current Strategy reflects the collective vision and values that Canadians have for the future of their forests. It has one goal, a vision and values, and conveys nine strategic directions and their principles, under which are 121 action commitments. The nine strategic directions are:

1. Forest Ecosystems: Multiple Values
2. Forest Management: Practising Stewardship
3. Public Participation: Many Voices
4. The Forest Industry: A Global Competitor
5. Forest Science and Technology Management: A Team Approach
6. Communities and the Workforce: Living with Change
7. Aboriginal Peoples: Issues of Relationship
8. Private Woodlots: A Growing Opportunity
9. The Global View: Canada on Stage

The goal of the Accord and the Strategy, and that of Canadians, is to maintain and enhance the long-term health of forest ecosystems, for the benefit of all living things both nationally and globally, while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations.

The path forward: Into the new millennium and beyond

The progress made to the midpoint of the National Forest Strategy (1998-2003) is encouraging. However, all Coalition members recognize that progress must continue if the Strategy's goal of sustainable forests nationwide is to be realized. To support this forward momentum, and to further encourage partnerships across the nation, it is planned that the following events will take place:

2001

- **February** The National Forest Strategy Coalition annual meeting.
- **February** The Mid-term Evaluation Report will be released by the Independent Expert Evaluation Panel.

2002

- **January** The National Forest Strategy Coalition annual meeting.
- **September** A forest issues paper will be released.
- **November** Cross-country regional fora.

2003

- **January** The Final Evaluation Report will be released by an Independent Expert Evaluation Panel.
- **January** The National Forest Strategy Coalition annual meeting.
- **February** National Forum.
- **April** 9th National Forest Congress (Ottawa, Canada).
- **September** 12th World Forestry Congress (Québec, Canada).

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